

REMARKS

Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-58 are currently pending in the application.

Allowed claims: Claims 31-32, 35-42, 47-48 and 51-58 are allowed.

Objected to claims: Claims 18 and 47 have been objected to for minor informalities.

Rejected claims: Claims 1-30, 33, 34, 43-46, 49 and 50 have been rejected.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112, Para. 2

Claims 1-30, 33-34, 43-46 and 49-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Applicants' Response

Minor changes in wording to the claims are believed to cure the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These are matters of a lack of antecedent basis or a use of the indefinite article "a" instead of the definite article "said". The above draft amendment makes changes to the rejected claims to provide appropriate antecedent basis or appropriate use of the definite article "said" instead of the indefinite article "a", which should render the rejected claims allowable. Claims 1, 18, 27, 28, 43, 44, 46, and 47 have been so amended.

The Applicants believe that these amendments do not raise new issues requiring further consideration or search, and thus request the Examiner to enter the amendment and allow all of the claims.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of all claims now in the case and allowance of the application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4034US2.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4034US2.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: May 24, 2006

By: 

John E. Hoel
Registration No. 26,279
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101